

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 02961 130722Z

21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AGRE-00 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01

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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1243

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR, EALR, ETRD, CZ

SUBJECT: BARYL CONFIRMS HIGHER GRAIN HARVEST ESTIMATE

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE FAS FOR G&F AND L&M;

VIENNA FOR AGATT

REF: PRAGUE 2527

1. IN OCTOBE 7 "PRE-ELECTION" SPEECH, CENTRAL COMMITTEE
SECRETARY BARYL ESTIMATED 1976 GRAIN HARVEST AT 9.4 MILLION
TONS COMPARED TO 10.3 MILLION TONS PLANNED. HE THUS CONFIRMED
PRESIDENT HUSAK'S AUG 28 ESTIMATE (REFTEL) OF 9.0 TO 9.3
MILLION TONS, WHICH IN TURN HAD RAISED A PESSIMISTIC ESTIMATE
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OF 8.3 MILLION TONS MADE BY BARYL IN JULY WHEN DROUGHT WAS

AT ITS WORST.

2. INTERESTINGLY, BARLY'S OCT 7 ESTIMATE IS STRAIGHT FORWARD FIGURE WHEREAS HUSAK'S AUG ESTIMATE WAS OBLIQUELY STATED IN TERMS OF AVERAGE YIELD (3.3 TO 3.4 59,) PER HECTARE. THIS UNDOUBTEDLY INDICATES THAT CZECHOSLOVAKS ARE MORE CONFIDENT NOW THAT DROUGHT EFFECTS WERE NOT AS SEVERE AS ORIGINALLY FEARED.

3. BARYL ALSO SAID THAT "BASIC FOODSTUFFS FOR THE POPULATION FOR NEXT YEAR ARE FULLY ENSURED." HE INDICATED THAT RETAIL PRICES WILL REMAIN STABLE BUT URGED CITIZENS TO ECONOMIZE WITH FOODSTUFFS.

4. COMMENT: BARYL'S LATEST STATEMENT CONFIRMS OUR EARLIER (REFTEL) CALCULATIONS AND PREDICTION THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA WILL HAVE TO IMPORT ABOUT ONE MILLION TONS OF GRAIN FROM WEST IN ADDITION TO ITS IMPORTS FROM USSR AND HUNGARY.
FROWICK

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